IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An information recording medium, comprising:

a substrate; and

n recording layers provided on the substrate ~~films~~ for recording information (where n is an integer of 2 or more), ~~provided on said substrate~~ the n recording layers including both a focus i^{th} layer (where i is an integer equal to or larger than 1 and yet equal to or smaller than n-1) useable as a focusing target to access an i^{th} recording layer of the n recording layers, and an other focus j^{th} layer (where j is an integer that is equal to or larger than 2 while equal to or smaller than n, and not i) useable as a focusing target to access a j^{th} recording layer of the n recording layers which is deeper in the substrate relative to a predetermined light-incident side of the substrate than the i^{th} recording layer; ~~opposite from a light-incident side,~~

wherein the focus ith layer is selectably-transmissive responsive to focusing;

wherein whenever light is focused substantially on the other focus j^{th} layer, a transmittance T_i of the focus i^{th} layer is substantially transmissive satisfying the expression: ~~, when light is focused on the recording film on a j^{th} layer (where j is an integer that is equal to or larger than 2 while equal to or smaller than n, and not i), transmittance T_i (where i is an integer equal to or larger than 1 and yet equal to or smaller than n-1) of an i^{th} layer from the light-incident side of the recording medium satisfies the expression~~

$$\prod_{i=1}^{j-i} T_i^2 \geq \frac{n-j+1}{n}$$

to allow the light to substantially pass therethrough to allow access to the jth recording layer; and

wherein whenever light is focused substantially on the focus i^{th} layer, the transmittance T_i of the focus i^{th} layer changes so that the focus i^{th} layer becomes more reflective to allow access to the i^{th} recording layer. ~~when the light focuses on the recording film of the i^{th} layer.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the focus i^{th} layer is a nonlinear optical layer that changes transmittance depending on the focusing light. ~~is formed to the medium.~~

4. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the transmittance of the nonlinear optical layer changed by the focused light returns to an original value during one disk revolution.

5. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the nonlinear optical layer is formed of a thermochromic material.

6. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 5, wherein the thermochromic material is a triphernylmethane dye.

7. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the nonlinear optical layer is a layer containing at least one of oxide of Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu.

8. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 7, wherein the oxide is in contact with a metal or a semiconductor.

9. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the nonlinear optical layer has a laminated structure having a first layer containing at least one of oxide of Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and a second layer of metal or semiconductor.

10. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 8, wherein Fermi energy obtained by changing an optical property of the oxide of Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, or Cu by light irradiation is higher than Fermi energy of the metal or the semiconductor.

11. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 3 wherein the nonlinear optical layer is a magnetic material.

12. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 11, wherein the magnetic material contains garnet.

13. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 11, wherein the magnetic material is a magnetic semiconductor.

14. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 13, wherein the magnetic semiconductor contains Mn.

15. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 14, wherein the magnetic semiconductor containing Mn contains at least one of O, S, Se, or Te.

16. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 13, wherein the magnetic semiconductor contains at least one of Cd, Zn, Hg, or Pb.

17. (Original) An information recording medium according to claim 3, wherein a metal film or a semiconductor film is provided between the recording film and the nonlinear film, and a thickness of the metal film or the semiconductor film is equal to or more than 0 nm and equal to or less than 50 nm.

18. (Currently Amended) An optical information recording medium, comprising: a substrate, a first recording film, and a second recording film in a sequence from a light-incident side, wherein a nonlinear film is provided between the

substrate and the second recording film, the nonlinear film having reflectance higher than transmittance whenever ~~when the~~ light focuses thereon, while having transmittance higher than reflectance whenever ~~when~~ the light does not focus thereon.

19. (Original) An optical information recording medium according to claim 18, wherein the nonlinear film is placed between the first recording film and the second recording film.

20. (New) An information recording medium, comprising:

a substrate;

a plurality of recording layers, at least one recording layer of which has a focusing-responsive selectably-transmissive layer associated therewith;

wherein whenever light is NOT focused substantially on the selectably-transmissive layer, the selectably-transmissive layer is substantially transmissive to allow the light to substantially pass therethrough to allow access to a recording layer other than the at least one recording layer; and

wherein whenever light IS focused substantially on the selectably-transmissive layer, the transmittance of the selectably-transmissive layer changes so that the selectably-transmissive layer becomes more reflective to allow access to the at least one recording layer.